

"CINTRA" COMING FROM ENGLAND WITH DISPLAY OF MODES FOR CHARITY

The Hon. Mrs. John Fortescue to Give Fashion Show Here

'Cintra,' as She Styles Herself, in Trade With Husband, on Way From London to Display Models for Benefit of Soldiers' and Sailors' Fund.

Special Correspondence to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

New York Herald Bureau, London, Oct. 7.

NEW YORK is to witness a novel fashion pageant, if all goes well, made up of mannequins chosen from among the debutantes. So says "Cintra," the Hon. Mrs. John Fortescue, who is "trading," as she herself expresses it, in picture clothes for women and "undermuslins." Cintra is leaving England soon for America and has been persuaded to display her own creations for the benefit of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Fund, which she deems a most appropriate benevolence, as her husband is the well known historian of the British army.

The Hon. John Fortescue and his wife are sailing from England on October 31 on the Caronia and are to be entertained on their arrival in New York by Mr. and Mrs. Francis Rogers at 144 East Sixty-second street, after which they will visit Mr. and Mrs. Grayson M. P. Murphy of 11 East Seventeenth street. They do not expect to travel in America, but Mrs. Fortescue may move her exhibition to Philadelphia.

It is after repeated invitations to show her work in America that Cintra has consented and all arrangements have been made in advance by her friends, for a mannequin parade. Realizing the charm of the young American society girl, Mrs. Fortescue is intrigued by the idea of seeing her own creations fashionably displayed, yet at the same time she has not lost faith in the professional model who "knows the steps."

The profession of the mannequin is no longer negligible, but to be reckoned with as women's work, and the life of the model has become an attraction. It has sprung into sudden prominence among women who love the feeling of exquisite materials and who realize the value of the well bred woman as a method of showing off an exquisite work of art. England has set the example for the society girl. The beautiful Miss Gellibrand, who spent a most successful season on the Riviera under the chaperonage of

Baronne d'Erlanger, has recently made posing as a mannequin as much a profession as a diversion. But whether the models engaged by her friends be chosen from the fashionable or the professional world, the exhibition is to be held at the Plaza November 9.

A little of Cintra's history. In 1914 Miss Winifred Beech, who, although the daughter of an English vicar, had been on the stage at one time, married the Hon. John Fortescue, the fifth son of the third Earl of Fortescue, then librarian at Windsor Castle, with one of his homes in the Norman gateway. He is the author of the History of the British Army, which he interrupted to write the history of the war. Mrs. Fortescue believes in her husband's work and she reverses the thick historical volumes which, unfortunately, do not bring in a vast income. Those engaged in such compilations are frequently out of pocket, and the Hon. John refers to this chronic state, although without complaint, in the preface to his huge edition. His wife does not conceal the fact that she regards her own artistic work as "trade," and the backbone which supports her husband's hobby; she is not at play, but thoroughly in earnest and out to make a success of it.

It pressure was brought to bear by her fashionable New York audience, Cintra would confess, and frankly enough, how she failed twice in her business venture, but held on tenaciously until success crowned her efforts. She herself appreciates the humor and the pathos of her wartime struggles. She returned to England after a trip to Spain and Portugal filled with enthusiasm for a scheme for the importation and sale of antiques, and set up a small but choice establishment in Knightsbridge, where she hung out her sign as "Cintra," the town from which she brought her treasures. She made the daily trip from Hampstead Heath to this small "Upper Part," where she "kept shop" and dusted and polished her antiques and even washed her own windows, but nobody came to buy in wartime, so she removed the brocatelles and the brasses and the antique bedspreads, together with the plate, on which still gleamed "Cintra," to the Heath and said, "Very well, I shall trade in my own house." This was known as the "Romantic



THE HON. MRS. JOHN FORTESCUE.

House at Hampstead," which she now redeems from the onslaught of a futurist artist who had desecrated it so that even its ancient name was lost to history. It was again christened "Admiral's House" and simple wall colorings were restored which belong to its Adam ceilings. With her beautiful surround-

ings for additional inspiration, the artist added dresses to interior decoration. Then an opening was planned to which was bidden everybody who was anybody. They came and gazed upon forty mannequins in forty fascinating frocks, but took away only eight, and when the last client had gone poor Cintra fell in

a heap, dissolved in tears. But pluck came to her rescue. Even in the face of war conditions she was determined not to fail. She persisted and she has bought Admiral's House.

The would-be purchaser of dresses who pulls the bell to-day will be shown through a series of enchanting rooms to a latticed veranda, to be received by Cintra in gown and hat and floating veil of delicate gray. And the owner will show you round the Old World rose garden which is her inspiration. It was in this delightful spot, lighted by fairy lamps, that she paraded her mannequins last July, at 19 in the evening, to music from an overhead balcony. And it was here, beside the moss-grown balustrade, the old walls, and the Greek temple, that the scenes for the film, "Monsieur Beaucaire," were photographed, as shown in America. The house itself seems to be haunted by the ghost of an Admiral; one Barton, of George III's reign, who even had cannon mounted on the "cannon dock" of his mysterious mansion, which had much in common with a ship.

Cintra means to pose in America at least half a hundred distinctive models— evening cloaks, tea-gowns, negligees, boudoir wraps—many in picture style and all of which accentuate the line and drape for which their creator is famed. If she does not bring with her the bride's white and silver loveliness and its "petticoat sleeves,"

From her "Cave," a black room from

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which all light is excluded, this enchantress can bring forth all manner of rarely beautiful fabrics, creped, and crinkled velvets, some of them, when electrically lighted, looking like tigers and leopards. And she names them. She has just enough of the freakish in her to be smart. Almost all of the house and quite all of Cintra are given over to the gentle art of making woman's clothes.

Dolores, of Ziegfeld fame, who divides honors as an American beauty with

Lady Ribblesdale, came recently under the spell of Cintra, who finally sent her away with a wardrobe of draped theatrical costumes so unique in their length of line that the actress had not been able to secure them even in Paris. She went away thrilled with her discovery.

Mrs. Fortescue both appreciates and understands the American woman. She is a brilliant, enthusiastic and courageous woman herself and is brimful of original ideas. "If my designs should

ever be plagiarized," says she, "well—I shall invent others." She has the gift of imagination and the rare ability to rise with rapidity to the occasion. Last year, when she decided suddenly to respond to the royal command to appear at the garden party, she whisked herself into folds of ivory satin, brocaded with magnolia velvet, and was miraculously sewn into it within an hour. And this was altogether characteristic of "Cintra" (Winifred Fortescue so named, as she signs herself).

Early Season Events in Social Clubland

Continued from Preceding Page.

Francis U. Stearns, Norton Squire and F. O. Bowen.

The Inwood Study Club will open its club year with a meeting at the Parish House, Broadway and Dyckman street, on Tuesday evening. Mrs. Alfreda Still, chairman, will give an address on "Modern Drama" and Mr. George Cline will speak on current topics. An open discussion will follow.

The club has planned a busy winter and will discuss at its monthly meetings economic, social, literary, political and topics pertaining to art and music. The literature study class connected with the club will meet at the home of the president monthly throughout the winter and study various old and modern authors. Dr. Lillian Craig Randall is president and Mrs. A. A. Ruckey secretary.

meeting of the season on Friday afternoon at the residence of its president, Mrs. P. J. White, 270 Park avenue. An interesting program was given.

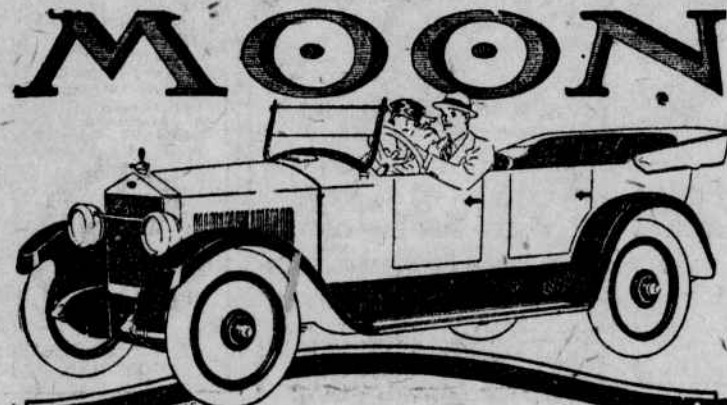
dent, elected as delegates to the coming convention of the New York City Federation of Women's Clubs to be held at the Hotel Astor on Friday, Mrs. Lilly and Mrs. Charles H. Griffin. The alternates are Mrs. Louis Ralston and Mrs. Charles Milton Ford. The founder, Mrs. Charlotte Clark, and Mrs. Frank E. Bradner were delegates, and Mrs. William Whitaker and Mrs. Fred Hixon Baldwin alternates to the State Federation Convention, held recently at the Hotel Commodore. The work of the priors for this season is to be on legislation.

An Italian program was given at the meeting of the National Opera Club, Mme. Katherine Evans von Klenner president, on Thursday at the Waldorf-Astoria. The artists were Erminia Isgotti, Michele Michale Anselmo, Julius Shendel, Amy Grant and Elmer Zoller. Dancing followed the program. Mrs. C. W. Rubens was chairman.

"Mona Lisa" will be the operagone given by the club at its meeting on November 9.

The Louisiana Society held its first

The Priors, Mrs. Harry Lilly, presi-



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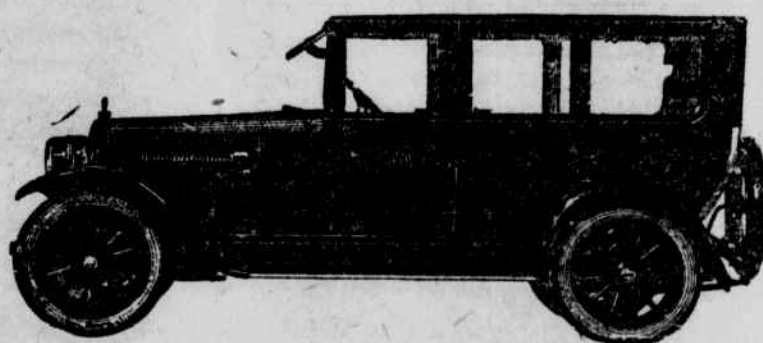
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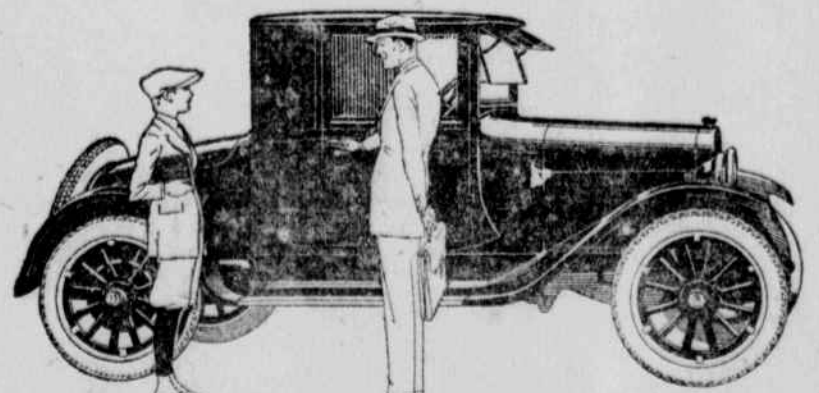
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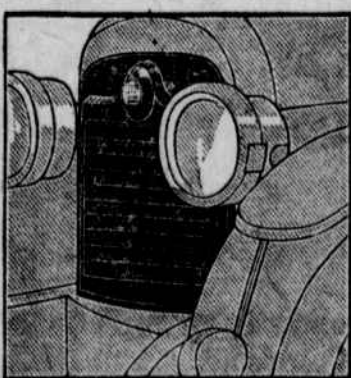
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